

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of: **HENRY J. MCVICKER** )  
 )  
Serial Number: )  
 )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
 )  
 )  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
MANUFACTURING ARTICLE WITH )  
INTEGRALLY FORMED HOOKS WITH )  
SHEAR AT HOOK-BEARING SURFACE )  
 )  
Art Unit: )  
Confirmation No.: )  
Attorney Docket No.: 513779600008 )

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56. However, submitting this information is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein either is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56 or is "prior art" for this invention.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), (h), the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b) exists.

A list of patent(s) and/or publications is set forth on the attached Form PTOL-1449.

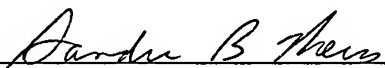
Copies of all available patents are supplied herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is deemed patentable over the cited references, whether taken singly or in combination. Applicants are submitting these references for consideration by the Examiner and for purposes of entering these citations in the official file in order to comply with their duty of candor.

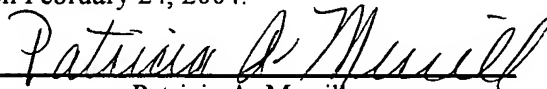
If a fee is due, the Patent Office is authorized to debit our deposit account number 10-1202.

Respectfully submitted,

February 24, 2004

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Patent Application,** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450 on February 24, 2004.

  
Patricia A. Merrill

